



# STUART HALL SCHOOL

## **HEADLINES** for Middle & Upper School    **October 2007**

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### **Back to School Night, Ring Banquet, and Fall Festival Wrap Up**

What a wonderful and busy time we have had in October! It was great to see so many families here for Back to School Night. Our faculty was pleased to have the opportunity to talk about course work and answer questions. Thank you for joining us.

More than 160 guests attended this year's Ring Banquet. The sophomore class did a superb job decorating the gym, setting the tables, serving the beverages and dessert, and cleaning up afterwards. The seniors were beautifully dressed – the ladies in gorgeous dresses and the gentlemen in their Sunday best. It was a colorful, fun and celebratory evening.

The weather was absolutely perfect for the Fall Festival and Mixer. There were games galore, yummy things to eat and drink, jewelry and t-shirts to buy, music to listen to, pumpkins and faces to decorate, and plenty of opportunity to get somebody soaked in the dunking booth. Six other private schools joined our Stuart Hall students for the evening mixer on Fillmore Field and arrived in time to enjoy the various festival games. We thank all parents who baked goodies, manned booths, sold tickets, and provided transportation for their children to be here.

### **Hunter McGuire Lower School Fall Festival, October 20, 3 – 7 PM**

Come for an afternoon and evening of family fun! Games galore and food off the grill, music, dancing, karaoke, moon bounce, hair beading, raffles, and much, much more! Game tickets can be purchased at the gate. Don't miss the extravaganza at our Lower school campus in Verona, at 74 Quicks Mill Road. Do you have questions? If so, please call (540) 248-2404.

### **Student Life**

#### **Venus Williams at Mary Baldwin College, Tuesday, October 23 at 5 PM**

The tennis sensation is scheduled to speak on the Mary Baldwin College's Page Terrace, in front of Grafton Library in Staunton. For further details, check the MBC website: [www.mbc.edu](http://www.mbc.edu).

#### **Community Service Day, Friday, October 26**

Our second Community Service Day is fast approaching. Look for Stuart Hall students volunteering all around Staunton.

### **School Picture Day, Tuesday, October 30**

Comb that hair, pinch those cheeks! For best results, have your children wear strong colors to school that day.

### **Fall Sports Celebration, Thursday, November 1 at 7 PM**

Did your son or daughter play soccer or volleyball this fall? If so, please join us in the auditorium for an assembly, and then we'll break into groups by sport. Refreshments will be served. See you there!

### **No School Friday, November 2**

Please note that students have no school on November 2. As it is the end of Marking Period I, the teachers have a workday. Let your children sleep late and rest up after a hard quarter of school work. They deserve it.

## **Visit Days, Open Houses, and Meet and Greet on Frederick Street**

Our Admissions team, comprised of Mia Kivlighan (LS), Dave Taibl, Sally Day, and Andrea Bahle (MS & US), have scheduled numerous opportunities for prospective families to get to know the School. Please mark these events on your calendars and share them with your friends.

### **Hunter McGuire Lower School Open Houses**

Please come to the Hunter McGuire Lower School Open House, Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. or at 5:30 p.m. It's a great chance to see the lower school, talk to parents and teachers, and find out about our rich elementary program. For more information or to refer a family who might be interested, Please contact Mia Kivlighan at 540-248-2404 or at [mkivlighan@huntermcguire.org](mailto:mkivlighan@huntermcguire.org). Individual appointments for visiting the school are also available. Just call Ms. Kivlighan at the number above.

### **Stuart Hall MS and US Visit Days 2007-2008**

**November 5, December 3, January 14, February 11, March 3, April 7, and May 5**

On the above dates, we will host prospective middle and upper school students at the Staunton campus. These Monday Visit Days provide a wonderful opportunity for students to spend the day attending classes, getting to know faculty and students, and having lunch in our Dining Hall. Current Stuart Hall students are encouraged to bring a friend on Visit Days. Just have him or her complete the "Bring a Friend to School" form (available at school), have a parent sign it, and return it to the School by the date indicated. This helpful advance notice assures enough seating in classrooms and at lunch, and assures that we provide a suitable student host for each visiting student.

### **Meet and Greet on Frederick Street, 7 – 8 PM**

**November 14, December 12, and January 23**

All current and prospective parents are invited to attend a Wednesday evening Meet and Greet on Frederick Street! These events are an opportunity to visit Stuart Hall's historic Worthington House, home of Head of School, Mark Eastham and his family, and to meet members of the Lower, Middle and Upper School Faculty and Staff. Bring your friends and any questions you have about our School. Refreshments will be served. Please e-mail the admissions office at [admissions@stuart-hall.org](mailto:admissions@stuart-hall.org) to RSVP for any of the three dates or call Andrea Bahle at 885-0356.

## **Fine Arts Evening, Thursday, November 8 at 7 PM**

We invite you and your family to attend the Fine Arts Evening on Thursday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m. Fall Fine Arts Evening on Thursday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m. This event, which features our outstanding arts program, will include musical performances and a display of student artwork. To make the evening easier for you, the Stuart Hall Parents' Association is offering dinner in the Dining Hall from 5:00 to 6:45 p.m. at a cost of \$8.00 for adults, \$6.50 for children 10 and under. Please e-mail Susan Laser at [susanlaser@comcast.net](mailto:susanlaser@comcast.net) by November 5 to reserve your spot for dinner.

## **Grandparents' Day, Friday, November 9, 10 - 11:30 AM**

Calling all Grandparents and Grand-friends! Please join us at Stuart Hall School for Chapel at Emmanuel Episcopal Church on Friday, November 9, 10 – 1:30 a.m. The program will begin with a greeting from Head of School Mark Eastham followed by musical performances and readings by students. Receptions in Old Main and the Middle School foyer will wrap up the festivities. Students will also have the opportunity to show their guests around the school. Don't miss the fun!

## **Thanksgiving Break and Christmas Parade**

Our Thanksgiving break begins with dismissal on Friday, November 16 at 12:45 p.m. Students return to classes on Tuesday, November 27. Boarders need to be back on dorm no later than 6:45 p.m. on Monday, November 26.

The Staunton Christmas Parade is Monday evening, November 26 at 7 PM. Stuart Hall School will participate in the parade. Interested Lower, Middle and Upper School students and parents may contact [rstuart@stuart-hall.org](mailto:rstuart@stuart-hall.org) to get on board. This is always a fun time, so come join us!

## **Stuart Hall MS/US Parents' Association**

This has been a very busy fall beginning with an organizational meeting in September at Worthington House. President Mary McDermott and Head of School Mark Eastham welcomed the attendees. The group discussed the various on-going projects of the Association and then had a brainstorming session. Action items from that session included the possibility of setting up phone conferences and meetings for the parents located in various cities (e.g. Lexington, Harrisonburg), a table at Fall Festival for parents to chat, enjoy a cup of coffee, and get to know one another, and lots of ideas for gatherings for students in each class in an informal setting. The Parents' Association very much appreciates the gracious hospitality of Kathy and Mark Eastham. Worthington House is lovely and the refreshments were fantastic!

Fall Festival was a sunny, musical, game and food-filled success. Many thanks to the parents who helped with booths and sold tickets including: Elizabeth Craun, Darlene Fistel, Lisa Puzio, Scarlet Whitlock, Bill Lloyd, Brenda Hagg, Deneen Brannock and Peg Sheridan. Also thanks go out to Myriam Escanellas for setting up the lovely table for the gathering!

Before the Fine Arts Evening on November 8, the Parents' Association is offering a relaxing dinner in the Dining Hall from 5:00 to 6:45 p.m. Dinner is \$8.00 for adults and \$6.50 for children 10 and

under. We ask that you email Susan Laser at [susanlaser@comcast.net](mailto:susanlaser@comcast.net) by November 5 to make reservations.

Mark your calendars for the Parents' Association meeting November 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Gibbs Reception Room. We'll be discussing Parents' Association projects and upcoming events, getting reports from those who volunteered at our September meeting including our fundraising, Middle School outreach, and Upper School outreach – and we'll continue to share ideas for new initiatives. Please come!

The Parents' Association is planning seminars on topics of interest to Stuart Hall lower, middle and upper school parents, including transitioning to middle school and transitioning to college. Let our Seminar Coordinator, Julie Garkov, know of other topics of interest to you. Julie is a Mary Baldwin College faculty member and mother of Alexander (10<sup>th</sup>) and Sophia (7<sup>th</sup>).

If you have not paid your dues for the Parents' Association, remember that it is never too late!

## **What's New at Stuart Hall**

### **New Competitive Swimming Opportunity for Students**

Stuart Hall School and the Augusta County Amberjax Swim Team (ACAST) have joined forces to provide new competitive swim opportunities to Stuart Hall students and other Staunton-area youth.

Members of ACAST, which is a new USA Swimming-affiliated team in the area, practice five days a week in Stuart Hall's indoor pool and the Staunton-Augusta YMCA. Some of the young people have been involved in competitive swimming for several years and others have just joined as this new team was formed.

Three training groups, organized by skill level, help swimmers develop their strokes, improve their speed, and gain in overall fitness, all under the direction of head coach Bob Couch. Young people race in meets against their personal best times, USA Swimming motivational times, and other swimmers.

Several Hunter McGuire Lower School students already take part in ACAST and Stuart Hall Middle and Upper School students will have the opportunity to join the team for a four-month winter sports season beginning in November. By working with ACAST, Stuart Hall benefits from a larger team environment, more competition, and a portal into the competitive world of USA Swimming. With the rest of ACAST, the students will have a chance to participate in meets across the region, and they'll also take part in a high school meet that caps the season.

The team is open to the entire community. While many young people swim on a year-round basis, many see swimming as an off-season sport, raising their level of fitness during the months when soccer or baseball is not available. ACAST will also provide an option for Stuart Hall students to continue with the team past the end of the winter sports season.

For more information on ACAST, Stuart Hall students can pick up a brochure and view practice times on the bulletin board outside the pool or visit [www.acastamberjax.org](http://www.acastamberjax.org) to learn more.